Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original)   A method of forming a security image from two or more images comprising:

    manipulating tonal values of each image element of a first image to take values within a first set of tonal values;

    manipulating tonal values of each image element of a second image to take values within a second set of tonal values; and

    forming a security image from the manipulated tonal values of the first and second images, the first and second sets of tonal values being selected so that at least one of the first and second images is concealed in the security image.

2. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising selecting the first image to be a visible image and selecting the second image to be an encoded image which can be decoded using a decoding screen so that the encoded image is the image concealed in the security image.

3. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:

    manipulating tonal values of each image element of at least one additional image to take values within an additional set of tonal values; and

    forming the security image from the manipulated

tonal values of the first, second and at least one
additional images.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
encoded image is selected to be a digitally modulated
image.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first
set of tonal values is selected to be larger than the
second set of tonal values.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the number
of tones in the first and second sets is equal to the
number of available tones for the image representation
technique.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of
the first and second sets of tonal values are ranges of
consecutive tones, the sum of the ranges being equal to
the number of available tones in the range of tones for
the image representation technique.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the
first and second images are full tone range images and

each of the first and second images are manipulated by
proportionally compressing the values of the tones to take
values within the first and second ranges.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled)

17. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising
concealing a plurality of images within the security image
in such a manner that they can each be decoded by a
processing means.

18. (Original)   A method as claimed in claim 17 comprising
combining a plurality of two tone images including at
least said first image and said second image, and
manipulating each image element of each two tone image to
take one of the values of a bit, and
     forming the security image by adding the values
of the respective bits to obtain a grey scale value for
each image elements.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17 comprising
allocating segments of a code for defining the tonal value
of each image element of the security image as the sets of
tonal values for respective ones of the plurality of
images so that the segments can be combined to form a
composite tonal value of each image element without
disturbing the values of the segments so they, and hence
the plurality of images, can be decoded.

Claims 20-21 (Canceled)

22. (Original)   A security device comprising:

a security image formed from manipulated tonal
values of first and second images, the first and second
images being manipulated to take values within the first
and second sets of tonal values, the sets of tonal values
being selected so that at least one of the first and
second images is concealed in the security image.

23. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein
the first image is a visible image and the second image is
an encoded image which can be decoded using a decoding
screen so that the encoded image is the image concealed in
the security image.

24. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 23 wherein
the encoded image is a digitally modulated image.

25. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein
the first set of tonal values is larger than the second
set of tonal values.

Claims 26-27 (Canceled)

28. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein
the number of tones in the first and second sets is equal
to the number of available tones for the image
representation technique.

29. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 28 wherein
each of the first and second sets of tonal values are
ranges of consecutive tones, the sum of the ranges being
equal to the number of available tones in the range of
tones for the image representation technique.

30. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 28 wherein
at least one of the first and second sets of tonal values
comprises two or more ranges of consecutive tones.

Claims 31-33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A security device as claimed in claim 33
wherein a plurality of two tone images including at least said
first image and said second image are combined and
manipulated by allocating each image element of each two
tone image one of the values of a bit, and
     ~~forming~~ the security image is formed by adding the values
of the respective bits to obtain a grey scale value for
each image elements.

35. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 34 wherein
segments of a code for defining the tonal value of each
image element of the security image are allocated as the
sets of tonal values for respective ones of the plurality
of images so that the segments can be combined to form a
composite tonal value of each image element without
disturbing the values of the segments so they, and hence
the plurality of images, can be decoded.

Claims 36-37 (Canceled)